

Instead of focusing on job creation and other efforts to grow our economy again, House Republicans have set the tone for the beginning of the 112th Congress by attempting to repeal the most comprehensive health care reform legislation in our history. Legislation that is not only sustainable and fiscally responsible, but improves the health of the American people in meaningful ways.

In their misguided quest to undo everything that Democrats have achieved over the past two years, Republicans continue to ignore the facts. What they call a “job-killing health care law” actually creates much-needed jobs and cuts the deficit.

Strengthening and growing our primary care workforce is critical to reforming our nation’s health care system and to our continued economic growth. Had Congress not acted to pass comprehensive health care reform, we would be faced with a primary care shortfall in excess of 21,000 physicians by 2015.

The *Affordable Care Act* addresses the shortage of primary care health professionals by providing \$250 million, as part of the Prevention and Public Health Fund, in new funding to train, incentivize, and support the next generation of primary caregivers, especially those who practice in underserved areas.

Combined with investments made by the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act*, which Republicans also vehemently opposed, the provisions of the *Affordable Care Act* will add more than 16,000 new doctors, nurses, nurse practitioners, and physician’s assistants over the next five years.

This effort is just one of many in a comprehensive, multi-faceted strategy to help create the infrastructure necessary to support a strong primary care workforce and keep our nation healthy.

Since gaining the majority, House Republicans have been focused on repealing health care when what they should be focusing on getting our economy back on track and creating jobs for

Americans who are struggling. Republicans have continued to dedicate precious time to this fruitless repeal effort, which would still need approval by the Senate and President should it pass the House.

While Republicans would vote to take coverage away from over 32 million Americans and increase the deficit, I stand committed to continuing to work to make health care more affordable and accessible for all, especially middle class, working poor, and other vulnerable Americans. By rehashing the health care debate instead of focusing on jobs, it is clear that Republicans would rather take Americans back to a time when looking for a job meant going without health insurance than invest in our country's future.

Frankly, it is time to create more of the jobs that the American people need and deserve, not pull extreme political stunts like the repeal measure before us. Make no mistake; Democrats' number one priority is job creation.